

HOUSE BILL 1388

By Williams

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 1, Part 8, relative to health care.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-802(b), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting the following:

(b) The program shall assist pregnant women and their fetuses and newborn infants by developing a regionalized system of care, including highly specialized personnel, equipment, and techniques, that will decrease the existing high mortality rate, neonatal death rate, pre-term birth rate, and the lifelong disabilities that currently prevail in surviving newborn infants.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-804, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

Assist in the regional development, expansion, and maintenance of specialty level II birthing centers in every health region with certified obstetricians and pediatricians available who are trained in the prevention, early diagnoses, treatment, and stabilization of complications of pregnancy and childbirth;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 8, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

On or before March 1 of each year the bureau of TennCare, in consultation with the perinatal advisory committee and with the assistance of relevant state agencies, shall report to the health committee of the house of representatives and the health and welfare committee of the senate concerning the following aspects of quality and

outcomes in perinatal care for the last two (2) available fiscal years or calendar years, as may be available:

(1) From information available to managed care organizations participating in the TennCare program, a description of any initiatives by the managed care organizations to improve key performance indicators of perinatal care outcomes such as maternal deaths, neonatal and fetal perinatal deaths, and pre-term births; and

(2) From vital statistical data available to the bureau of TennCare and the department, a determination of the effectiveness of managed care organizations' initiatives toward improving perinatal care outcomes to residents in each health region.

SECTION 4. For reference purposes only and not to constitute a part of the law enacted by this act, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to change the heading for Tennessee Code Annotated Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 8, from "**Care of Newborn Infants**" to "**Perinatal and Neonatal Care**".

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.